REMARKS

The above-identified continuation application has been preliminarily amended. The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 22-28 have been cancelled and claims 29-31, directed to specific polymer compositions, have been added. Please enter the amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee. No new matter has been added by amendment.

The correspondence address for the undersigned attorney has changed. Effective immediately, please address all communication in this application to:

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Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2001

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Version of amended specification with changes indicated

Paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1:

The functional moiety may be selected from the group consisting of amino, hydroxyl, amido, carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof, sulfhydryl (SH), unsaturated carbon bond and heteroatom bonds, N-COOH, $N(C=O)H_2$ S(OR), alkyd/dry resin, formaldehyde condensate , methyol acrylamides and allylic groups. The supporting polymer may be selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, polyethylene and polypropylene co-difunctional polymers, polyvinyl chlorides, epoxides, polyamides, polyesters and alkyd copolymers. The hydrophilic polymer may be selected from the group consisting of poly(N-vinyl lactams), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene oxide), polyacrylamides, cellulosics, methyl cellulose, polyanhydrides, polyacrylic acids, polyvinyl alcohols and polyvinyl ethers.

Paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 1 and 9.

In another aspect of the invention, a coated article is provided [an article] having a surface coated with a hydrophilic coating. The hydrophilic coating includes a three-[dimension] dimensional supporting polymer matrix, in which the supporting polymer forms a three-dimensional network through crosslinking bridges; and a hydrophilic polymer, in which the hydrophilic polymer is associated with the supporting polymer. The coating is characterized in that the supporting polymer forms a three-dimensional network which, when wet, minimizes [eliminates] disassociation of the hydrophilic polymer and retains slip for up to 24 hours in ambient aqueous medium.

In one embodiment of the invention, the supporting polymer is selected from the group

consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, polyethylene and polypropylene copolymers, polyvinyl chlorides, epoxides, polyamides, polyesters and alkyd copolymers. In another embodiment of the invention, the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(N-vinyl lactams), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene oxide), polyacrylamides, cellulosics, methyl cellulose, polyacrylic acids, polyvinyl alcohols, and polyvinyl ethers.

Paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30.

By "crosslink reaction" as that term is used herein it is meant a reaction which forms covalent bridges or linkages between remote sites [cites] on the supporting polymer backbone. The crosslink reaction may occur by self-crosslinking of the functional pendant groups directly or by addition of a crosslinking agent which reacts at the functional group to form the requisite linkage.

Paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18.

Use of polymers has [Polymers have] several advantages over the use of monomers. First, it avoids toxic monomers which must be rigorously removed before subsequent use in medical applications. Second, it allows preparation of water-based formulations because the polymer is either soluble in water or may be prepared as a water-based emulsion or dispersion. In addition, there is more [less] control over the nature of the polymer, e.g., molecular weight, degree of branching, etc. before blending and crosslinking.

Paragraph beginning on page 11, line 2.

The coating composition may additionally [includes] include a crosslink agent. Suitable crosslink agents include, but are not limited to, polyfunctional aziridines, polyfunctional

carbodiimides and polyfunctional epoxides. Additionally, crosslinking may be initiated by external factors, such as heat and/or uv irradiation, either in place of or in conjunction with a crosslink agent. Where higher temperature may be tolerated, the use of melamine and urea/formaldehyde condensates is possible. Typically, the crosslink agent may be a di- or tri-functional compound; however, it is contemplated as being within the scope of the invention to use polyfunctional crosslink agents having three or more functional groups. It is also contemplated as within the scope of the invention to use ionic components, such as Zn, Ca and Mg, as the crosslink agent.

Paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16.

Crosslinked samples were then modified with the hydrophilic polymer by adding predissolved 5% by weight hydrophilic polymer resin in water, added to provide a three part supporting polymer resin to one part hydrophilic polymer coating composition, unless noted otherwise.